

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

The Only Cold-Climate Research Program in the World.

WHAT IT IS:

Forensic anthropology is a science that studies human emains in order to determine the cause of death, identify ndividuals, solve crimes and better understand the complete life cycle.

A forensic anthropology esearch station is a secure area that allows scientific esearchers, law enforcement and legal professionals, and iniversity faculty and students to perform critical, innovative esearch on human decomposition and dentification in a variety of environmental settings.

Only seven anthropological esearch facilities exist—all in the United States, with one in Australia. A research center at Northern Michigan University would be the only cold-weather acility in the world studying human decomposition.

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

tate of Michigan

Michigan State Police

MSP Forensic Science Division

Bl
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco
and Firearms

Homeland Security

National Forensic Academy

Michigan Medical Examiners

J.S. Military

JP Health System

state universities

rivate medical schools

BENEFITS

- Brings pioneering research to Michigan
- Provides a better understanding of the effects of the unique conditions of a northern climate in crime-solving
- Serves as a training site for military, crime lab, law enforcement, homeland security, scientific and public safety professionals
- Potentially increases student enrollment in fast-growing STEM programs through hands-on research
- Enhances economic impacts to the regional community by offering specialized training and research opportunities to visiting scientists and other experts.

FAR-REACHING IMPACTS

Academic and career fields:

Anthropology
Art and Design
Biology
Chemistry
Clinical Science
Criminal Justice
Forensic Biology
Forensic Nursing
Forensic Pathology
Medical Examiner
Soil Science

Law enforcement support and education:

Crime scene investigation
Backcountry search and rescue
Cadaver dogs and handlers
Mass burial investigation
Natural disaster investigation
Border crossing issues



Upper Michigan's Largest Daily Newspaper

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Forensic anthropology is worthy of new program at NMU

orensic anthropology is the science of analyzing human remains to determine someone's identity and the timing and manner of death.

With technical advances, it's a growing field, and it's something Northern Michigan University is including with a new forensic anthropology program and research station. The program will include an outdoor research station that would serve as the world's first cold-weather

In fact, it's the coldweather aspect that would make NMU unique since relatively little information exists on the effects of freezing and thawing on human decomposition.

It's an unsavory topic for many, to be sure, but the data gleaned from such research is crucial for advancing forensic anthropology.

There's a lot of public interest in this field, with television programs such

Where we stand

as "Criminal Minds" and the "CSI" shows delving into the topic. Therefore, it's to be expected future NMU students will want to be part of this multidisciplinary field.

NMU's proposed program will include a laboratory and curated osteological collection, with skeletal remains kept in a climatecontrolled setting.

What can investigators learn from bones? Apparently, a lot. Scott Demel, associate professor and former head of anthropology collections at Chicago's Field Museum, said they can deter-

mine pathologic trauma or death and

it's an and we're investing r be solved.

By CHRISTIE BLECK

Journal Staff Writer

MARQUETTE — It might not be everyone's favorite thing in the world, but cold weather could provide a benefit down the line when it

Northern Michigan University is planning a new academic program in forensic anthropology that would include a secured outdoor research station — the eighth worldwide and the first cold-weather fa-

Forensic anthropology is the science in which human remains are studied to determine the cause of death, identify individuals, solve crimes and better understand the complete life cycle.

Kerri Schuiling, NMU provost and vice president for academic affairs, shared a tragic personal anecdote at a Sept. 6 public forum on

the proposed program.

"When I was 17, graduated from high school, a classmate of mine was brutally murdered and raped, and her body was found in a ditch," Schuiling said. "They didn't know how long it had been

The death of her classmate, who she called "a very brinks in



etters to the Editor

Cold-weather clues

Forensic anthropology research proposed for NMI

Body farm proposal has much merit

To the Journal editor: As a proud graduate of Northern Michigan University with a Criminal Justice degree, I applaud NMU and the powers at hand to help educate the world with a Northern Tier Forensic Body Farm.

The proposed location is already in university faculty and students to perform innovativ

human decomposition and identification.

Another speaker at the forum was Joyce Young, a forgist at Western Michigan University. The WMU med 2015 opened a Forensic Anthropology Recovery Unitsearch and recovery services to law enforcement age the Office of the Medical Examiner's postmortem exa

Only donated bodies are accepted, she said.

"We're very transparent with our community on wl
with the body, what the research projects are," Youn;
A cold-weather facility would add another dimen

no man's land between the Carp Rive er College aka Marquette Branch Prison and the Michigan DNR. So the location is really a dead issue. e location is really a dead issue.

Driving past that location for over 20

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someplace spe And you nev special Forens a loved one. One final po

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students benefi

Marquette as v

Letters to the Editor

Body farm would provide vital info To the Journal editor:

I am writing in response to the article written by Karen Smith who is against the body farm planned for Marquette My perception of the issue is far different? I am the wife of a man who has been missing since Aug. 1 in northern Michigan. I have spent hours walking the state forest in search of his body through rugged terrain along a river.

chance, I would ask another Search and er or K-9 handler the same questions. I w close we would have to be in order to ition. I wanted to know at what rate it was down to a skeleton. It made a was scanning for.

told us about how long deer take to is not the same as a human. Humans ompositions. They also wear clothes. as unlight it is different th

"What we know about forensic science is just the tip of the iceberg at this time. We cannot even fathom the types or research that would be possible with the research collections and opportunities at NMU."

d border-crossin swamp. There are

—Carolyn Isaac, PhD, Forensic Anthropologist

"A large number of questions asked regarding changes to the human body after death are related to the climate, and the country is lacking a facility with a suitable climate for research."

—Joyce L. deJong, D.O. Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology Western Michigan University School of Medicine

"I am the wife of a man who has been missing since Aug. 1 in Northern Michigan... Knowing exactly what happens in what time period can greatly improve efficiency in searches when someone is missing... I fully plan on supporting this... in any way I can."

—Amanda Hepworth, Hart, Michigan Excerpts from Mining Journal letter to the editor

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